tural commodities and by significantly increasing the Eximscrip entitlement. The exchange rate adjustments will benefit agricultural exports also.

Premium on Export-Import scrips

1015. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a high premium on Export Import scrips and whether the premium keeps rising;

(b) what is the present premium;

(c) whether Public Sector Undertakings are suffering heavy losses as a consequence thereof; and

(d) whether rescue measures will be undertaken for these Public Sector Undertakings or will they be allowed to languish and close down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The premium on Exim Scrips is not high and has oscillated within a narrow band in recent months.

(b) Current premium on Exim Scrip ranges from 22 per cent to 25 per cent.

(c) We have not received any complaints/representations conveying losses by Public Sector Undertakings.

(d) Governments are monitoring the premium on Exim Scrip to ensure that it acts as an incentive for export efforts and to regulate imports but does not become a speculative activity; suitable measures are being taken from time to time to remove difficulties faced by exporters based on regular and periodic interaction with trade and industry.

Export of Vat Napthol and acid dyes

1016. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of Vat. Napthol and acid dyes exported during the year 1990-91 and their FOB value;

(b) what is the amount of cash incentives and the value of import entitlements and draw back of duties allowed to the exporters during the year 1990-91;

(c) what is the effect of export of dyes on the availability and prices of dyes and chemicals for handloom industry;

(d) whether any representation has been received by Government to restrict the export of dyes and chemicals keeping in view the actual needs of handloom industry and other allied industries, if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(e) whether there is any proposal with Government to procure the required quantities of dyes and chemicals from manufacturers at fixed prices and arrange their distribution by National Handlooms Development Corporation and State Apex Weavers' Societies to handloom weavers at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The FOB value of Vat, Naphthol and Acid dyes exported during 1990-91 is Rs. 48.4 crores, 2.2 crores and 10.8 crores respectively. Exports of these items are being monitored in value term.

(b) Separate statistics regarding amount of CCS, import replenishment and duty drawback paid on individual items are not maintained. However, a general drawback rate of 10 per cent was available during 1990-91 on exports of synthetic organic dyestuffs, dye-Intermediates, pigment dyestuffs and lake colour which also include Vat-Nap-thol and Acid dyes. Cash Compensatory Support @ 12 per cent and import replenishment @ 20 per cent were also available during the period.

(c) There is no shortage of Vat, Naphthol and Acid dyes in the country and there is no adverse effect on domestic availability and prices for handloom industry.

(d) Representations for restricting exports of dyes and other chemicals are received from time to time. However, the present policy decision of allowing ex-

ports of dyes has been taken after keeping the interest of Handloom Sector in view.

(e) National Handloom Development Corporation is already procuring dyes and chemicals from manufacturers for supply to the handloom weavers and their organisations including apex weavers co-operative societies.

Tea Export and its State-wise Estates

1017. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea exports have substantially increased during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) if so, what has been the total quantity of production of tea in the country during these years; and

(c) what is the number of tea estates in the country, State-wise and their production during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There has been increase in export of tea in terms of value. This is evident from the comparative figures for the last three years given below:—

Qty : M. Kgs.

Value: Rs./Crs.

Year	Quantity	Value
1988-89	204·80	641.87
1989-90	311.76	914·87
1990-91 (Estd.)	199·48	1045·41

(b) and (c) The number of tea estates registered with the Tea Board as on 31 December, 1989 in each State and their production figures in the calender years 1989 and 1990 are as follows :—

State	No. of estates	Production (M. Kgs.)	
		1989	1990
1	2	3	4
Assam	848	379·86	379·89
West Bengal	347	143·17	157·52
Tripura	58	5·27	
Bihar	4	0·03	
U.P.	31	0·41	
Himachal Pradesh	1660	0·71	